

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1, 3 through 15, 20, 22 through 25, 30, and 32 through 35 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) An image sensing apparatus comprising:

a light projector for illuminating an object;

an optical system for receiving an image of the object illuminated by said light projector;

image sensing means for sensing an object image obtained via said optical system, and outputting the input video signal;

focus adjustment control means for adjusting a position of said optical system to an in-focus position by moving said optical system in an optical axis direction on the basis of a specific component in the video signal output from said image sensing means; and

recording means for recording a moving or still image of an object on a recording medium in correspondence with the video signal,

wherein said focus adjustment control means turns on/off said light projector in synchronism with a vertical sync signal of the video signal and sets an ON period of said light projector at an integer multiple of a vertical sync period of the video signal upon executing focus adjustment with respect to the object.

17. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said focus adjustment control means turns on/off said light projector in synchronism with the vertical sync signal of the video signal, sets an ON period of said light projector twice the vertical sync period of the video signal, and sets an OFF period of said light projector to be equal to the vertical sync period of the video signal, upon executing focus adjustment with respect to the object.

18. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said focus adjustment control means adjusts the position of said optical system to the in-focus position in accordance with an average value of focus evaluation values obtained during a period three times the vertical sync period.

19. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein upon completion of focus adjustment for the object while said light projector is ON, said focus adjustment control means inhibits said optical system from being driven before said light projector is turned off.

20-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) A focus adjustment method for an image sensing apparatus which illuminates an object by a light projector, senses an image of the illuminated object input via an optical system using an image sensing element, and records a moving or still image of the object on a recording medium in correspondence with a video signal output from said image sensing element,

wherein a focus adjustment control step of adjusting a position of said optical system to an in-focus position with respect to the object includes the step of turning on/off said light projector in synchronism with a vertical sync signal of the video signal when said optical system is moved in an optical axis direction to maximize a focus evaluation value obtained by extracting a high-frequency component from the video signal output from said image sensing element, and setting an ON period of said light projector at an integer multiple of a vertical sync period of the video signal.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 26, wherein the focus adjustment control step includes the step of turning on/off said light projector in synchronism with the vertical sync signal of the video signal, setting an ON period of said light projector twice the vertical sync period of the video signal, and setting an OFF period of said light projector to be equal to the vertical sync period of the video signal.

28. (Original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the focus adjustment control step includes the step of adjusting the position of said optical system to the in-focus position in accordance with an average value of focus evaluation values obtained during a period three times the vertical sync period.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein upon completion of focus adjustment for the object while said light projector is ON, the focus adjustment control step includes the step of inhibiting said optical system from being driven before said light projector is turned off.

30-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program code of automatic focus adjustment in an image sensing apparatus which illuminates an object by a light projector, senses an image of the illuminated object input via an optical system using an image sensing element, and records a moving or still image of the object on a recording medium in correspondence with a video signal output from said image sensing element,

wherein a code of the focus adjustment step of adjusting a position of said optical system to an in-focus position with respect to the object turns on/off said light projector in synchronism with a vertical sync signal of the video signal when said optical system is moved in an optical axis direction to maximize a focus evaluation value obtained by extracting a high-frequency component from the video signal output from said image sensing element, and sets an ON period of said light projector at an integer multiple of a vertical sync period of the video signal.